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22 January 1948

PROPOSED MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF CIA
FROM THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND MANPOWER STUDIES. *

1. Your memorandum of 9 October 1947 on this subject, directed to all intelligence agency chiefs, was followed by a series of meetings devoted to consideration of an inter-agency program in the field of population and manpower studies.

2. Review of present facilities for such studies did not reveal the extent of duplication indicated in the memorandum from General Todd (WDGS-G-2) of 25 September 1947, which was circulated with your memorandum. Personnel engaged in the field is extremely limited; the degree of overlap in work and output is negligible.

3. A major gap in the present facilities is the absence of a coordinated program (a) for the assembly and organization of basic census and other published materials, and (b) for the systematic interpretation of the validity and comparability of such materials.

4. This gap can best be filled by the establishment of a central working unit, preferably in the Bureau of the Census. This agency already has the nucleus of organization and skilled personnel for the task, and now maintains professional contacts with foreign statistical offices through its publications exchange and training programs. The studies produced by such a working unit would not require the use of classified materials and therefore could be made available to all U. S. government agencies.

5. The establishment of such a working unit would not eliminate the need for highly trained personnel within the intelligence agencies (for example, in Military Intelligence and in the Department of State). The basic information provided by such a unit in the Bureau of the Census must be analyzed and adapted to meet the specialized problems of these agencies. Presence of technically qualified persons within the agencies is required owing to:

- (a) the need for intimate acquaintance with the agency's problems when advising and preparing analytical reports on population factors affecting national defense and foreign policy;
- (b) the necessity for the use of covert sources and participation in operations of a confidential nature.

* The draft memorandum and fuller statement appended were prepared by Kirk (State) at the request of, and in consultation with, other members of a sub-committee appointed to draft recommendations. They incorporate views generally accepted at a meeting of the sub-committee on January 5.

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6. It is therefore recommended that the Director
 - (a) consult with the Director of the Census and the Chief of the Division of Statistical Standards (Bureau of the Budget) regarding the establishment of a unit in the Bureau of the Census: (1) to assemble and organize foreign census reports and other published materials relating to population and manpower and (2) to prepare country-by-country studies of the validity and comparability of foreign statistics in this field.
 - (b) urge the maintenance and strengthening of existing units in the intelligence agencies to meet the specialized requirements of national defense and foreign policy.
7. A fuller statement of these matters is given in the enclosure.

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